REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect the 371 status.

In addition, claims 1-24 of the international application as originally filed have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 25-35 are added. The new claims are supported by original claims 7-11 in the specification at page 9, lines 24-25.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPECIFICATION

MEDICINAL COMPOSITIONS FOR PREVENTING OR TREATING VIRAL MYOCARDITIS

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/04280 filed June 28, 2000.

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for the prophylaxis and treatment of viral myocarditis or viral diseases induced by viral myocarditis, which composition comprises 2-amino-2-(2-(4-octylphenyl)-ethyl)propane-1,3-diol or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient. More particularly, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for the amelioration and prophylaxis of viral cytotoxicity. The present invention also relates to a method for the prophylaxis or treatment of viral myocarditis or viral diseases induced by viral myocarditis, which method comprises administering 2-amino-2-(2-(4-octylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-diol or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof. The present invention further relates to use of 2-amino-2-(2-(4-octylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-diol or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof for the production of a pharmaceutical agent for the prophylaxis and treatment of viral myocarditis or viral diseases induced by viral myocarditis.

Background Art

Conventionally, viral diseases have been mainly prevented by the use of virus vaccines. However, vaccines are made specifically for individual viruses and are effective only for such individual viruses. There are numerous kinds of viruses, whereas vaccines are currently put to use against a very limited number of viruses. Moreover, viruses often include many mutant strains, but a vaccine effective against one virus often may not be so against a different virus of the same kind. In addition, it is extremely difficult to develop many vaccines associated with fewer side effects.

On the other hand, various antiviral agents (acyclovir,